

A JUVENILE GLASS-SNAKE, *OPHISAURUS HARTI*
(BOULENGER), FROM TAIWAN

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In the literature dealing with Hart's "glass-snake" (Boulenger, 1899, Proc. Zool. Soc. London. p 160; Schmidt, 1927, Notes on Chinese Reptiles. 54: 486; Pope, 1935, The Reptiles of China. p 473; Okada, 1938, A Catalogue of Vertebrates of Japan. p 108; Loveridge, 1946, Reptiles of the Pacific World. p 101-102; Chen, 1956, A Synopsis of the Vertebrates of Taiwan. p 339-340), only Boulenger has mentioned the coloration of the young. Although this species is known in Taiwan, young forms have rarely been seen.

A living juvenile specimen was sent to me by a snake dealer on September 11, 1962, said to be from Tai-Ping Shan, a high mountain in I-Lan Hsien (northeast Taiwan). The coloration of this specimen is grayish white above, with an interrupted but prominent black vertebral line on the body, only traces of vertebral line occurring on the tail. There are lines of minute black dots parallel with the vertebral line on the sides of the back. Ventral and lateral surfaces are deep black. The hind part of the head has 2

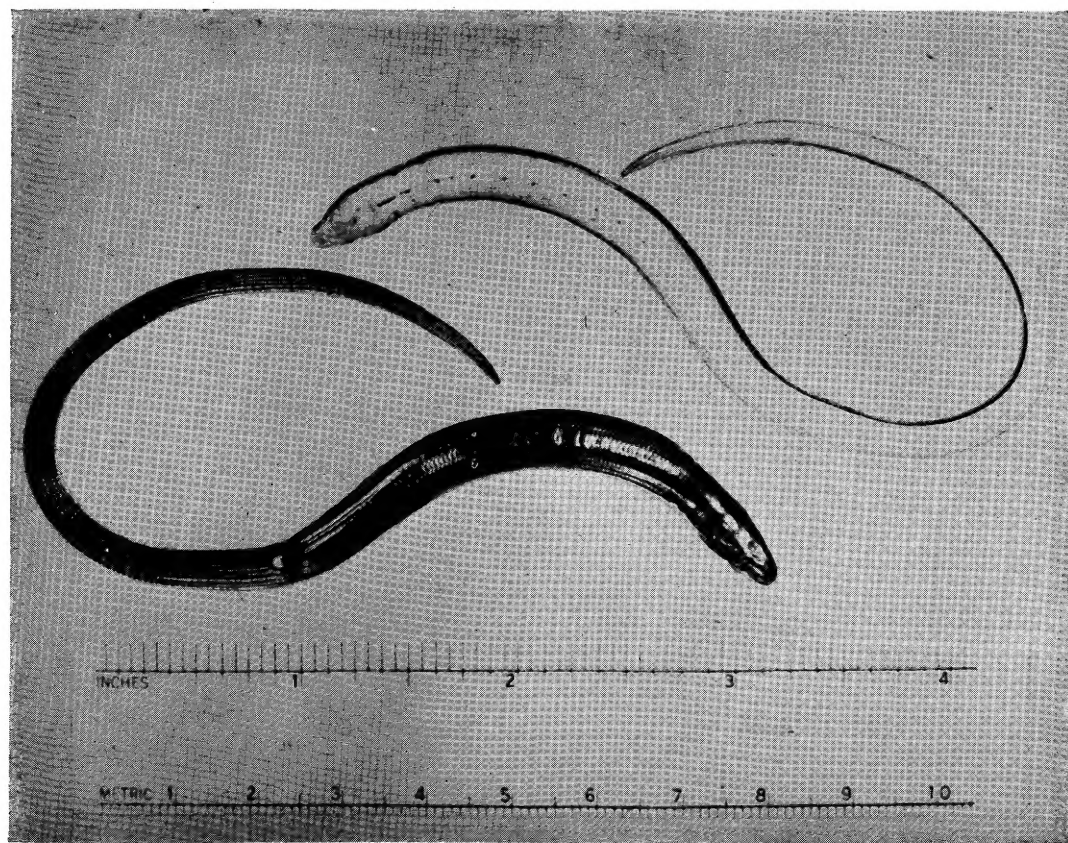


Fig. 1. Dorsal (above) & ventral (below) views of a juvenile glass snake, No. 40 (II)

small black dots. The entire animal looks as if it were freshly varnished.

The characteristics of this lizard are summarized as follows: two scales separating the nasal from azygos prefrontal, which is in contact with the greatest width of the frontal; 2 azygos shields between rostral and azygos prefrontal; 5 supraoculars. Dorsal scales in 16 longitudinal series, 10 of which are obtusely keeled; lateral and ventral scales smooth, the former in 5 and the latter in 10 longitudinal series respectively. The lateral scales are visible distinctly, since the

skin fold has not been formed. Measurement from snout to vent 6.9 cm; tail 9.6 cm.

This specimen is numbered 40 (II) and preserved in the Department of Biomorphics, National Defense Medical Center, Taipei, Taiwan.

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